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interval, ultrasonically measuring the rate [degree] of microbubble reperfusion of said tissue during said time interval.

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2.026. (Amended) A method of ultrasonically detecting a microbubble contrast agent in the presence of undesired tissue echoes [body by high PRF pulses] comprising the steps of:
transmitting a first ultrasonic pulse into the body which causes a first response from said microbubbles;
receiving a desired microbubble response to said first ultrasonic pulse;
transmitting a second ultrasonic pulse into the body which causes a second response from said microbubbles
receiving a desired microbubble response to said second ultrasonic response and an undesired tissue echo response to said first ultrasonic pulse;
processing said received microbubble responses by incoherent detection, whereby said desired microbubble echoes and said undesired tissue echo [responses] exhibit [opposite] different response characteristics [polarities]; and
eliminating said undesired tissue echo by means of said different response characteristics.

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview conducted on July 15, 1998. In the course of that interview the 38 claims pending in this application were discussed in light of all of the references cited by the applicants in this case and in co-pending application serial number 08/943,546, four patents specifically designated by the Examiner, which were U.S. Pat. 5,740,128 (Hossack et al.), U.S. Pat. 5,617,862 (Cole et al.), U.S. Pat. 5,560,364 (Porter), and U.S. Pat. 5,735,281 (Rafter et al.), and references selected from the Examiner's collection of contrast and harmonic imaging patents. As a result of this interview the following conclusions were reached.

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Claims 1-5 were determined to be patentable over the art of record with detailed consideration given to the Johnson et al. '257 and the Cole et al. '862 patents.

Claims 6-12, 37 and 38 were found to be supported by the teaching in the specification of harmonic imaging apparatus and were determined to be patentable over the art of record provided that Hossack '128 was removed as a reference. The enclosed declaration of Jeffry E. Powers attaches and describes a report by Dr. Peter N. Burns of harmonic imaging

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